

From: Alan Eshelman
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft calls the open source software movement a threat to innovation and is being given permission to withhold interoperability information from any open source developer if Microsoft deems them lacking in "authenticity and viability of its business," while at the same time calling Linux (an open source operating system) a "cancer." This is a huge hole which will be exploited by microsoft, please fix this and make Microsoft accountable for their past actions and prevent future abuses by this monopoly.

Even more disturbing is this from Ralph Nader's letter:

"Even within the brief period of the term of the agreement, Microsoft has too much room to co-opt the enforcement effort. Microsoft, despite having been found to be a law breaker by the courts, is given the right to select one member of the three members of the Technical Committee, who in turn gets a voice in selecting the third member. The committee is gagged, and sworn to secrecy, denying the public any information on Microsoft's compliance with the agreement, and will be paid by Microsoft, working inside Microsoft's headquarters. The public won't know if this committee spends its time playing golf with Microsoft executives, or investigating Microsoft's anticompetitive activities. Its ability to interview Microsoft employees will be extremely limited by the provisions that give Microsoft the opportunity to insist on having its lawyers present. One would be hard pressed to imagine an enforcement mechanism that would do less to make Microsoft accountable, which is probably why Microsoft has accepted its terms of reference."

Please repair these things, Microsoft is not being punished, monitored, or restricted in its illegal practices by the "US v. Microsoft proposed final order."

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